30 October - 1 November 1987

The ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL, Birmingham

NOTTACON 12

The Annual Convention of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

GUEST OF HONOUR IAIN BANKS

A SCENE FROM "ESPEDAIR STREET"

PROGRESS REPORT NUMBER THREE

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N.B. Forms for cheap train tickets should be sent to "That"s Entertainment", address on the form itself.

Advertising material for the programme book should be sent to Rog Peyton, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL

ALL other correspondence, forms, complaints anything you like, should be sent to Mick Evans, (Hotel registrations & convention memberships) or Bernie Evans, (Chairman, Idiot, Dogsbody, Can-carrier)

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Tel 021 707 6606
Evenings & Weekends

or 021 373 8131 ext 2630
Bernie at work

CHAIRMAN'S BIT

Well, this is it, the last P.R. before the convention.

There's a LOT of information in this one, so READ IT

In fact, there is so much information that this completes the Chairman's Bit, the rest of the P.R. is more interesting, and more useful, than anything I might have said!!

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FOOD AND DRINK

Food will be available from 5.00 p.m. on the Friday evening until midnight, and on Saturday and Sunday from 11.00 a.m. until Midnight Saturday and 9.00 p.m.Sunday.

There will be fresh hot meals at specific times, and both hot and cold snacks and sandwiches all the time the food area is open.

Prices will start at 50p for sandwiches and £2.50 for meals.

We will be having a menu from the hotel, and your programme leaflet will contain full details of exactly what will be available at which times.

Breakfast tickets can be exchanged for a meal and a sweet, or for sandwiches, (the meals will obviously give you better value), on the day of issue only, in the servery only, NOT THE RESTAURANT. Those of you who have booked a hotel room but don't eat breakfast will find this facility useful.

The Restaurant will be open for those who can afford to eat there. I have been for meals here on special occasions, and can vouch for the quality and choice. The carvery is the best value in the restaurant, and if you can afford it their A la Carte meals are superb.

Should you want to eat outside the hotel Birmingham has a wide selection of restaurants and fast-food places, far too numerous to mention here. We hope to be able to put together a mini-guide for you by the time you arrive.

There will be three bars providing an almost continuous service during the convention. The main hotel bar, Wimsey's, will be open from 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 10.00 a.m. Saturday and 10.30 a.m. Sunday, and will close when we stop buying.

The Wroxton bar, being in the main programme hall, will only be open for the Disco on Saturday night.

The Ariel bar, which will be a portable bar provided specially for us, will be open the same times as the Wimsey, but ACCORDING TO DEMAND. If we don't use it they'll close it. As the Ariel is also the fan room I don't expect there will be a problem of underuse, but the hotel do have to provide extra staff to man these bars, and we cannot expect them to do that if we don't use them.

Bar prices will start at £1.10 for a pint of bitter, with lager and shorts correspondingly higher. I have made strenuous efforts to get these prices reduced, but the brewery which owns the hotel will not budge. I am really sorry about this, as I know its been cheaper at other conventions, I even wrote to the brewery myself, to no avail. Please don't blame the bar staff, or even the hotel management,they really are brewery tied, and the brewery seems to have a blind-spot where prices are concerned.

GETTING THERE

BY CAR If driving on the M6, take Junction 6 (Spaghetti Junction), labelled "Birmingham Central". This takes you onto the A38(M) Aston Expressway. After the "End of Motorway" sign move into the right hand lane, which will take you over the Lancaster Circus flyover. At the end of the flyover move to the left hand lane and the Royal Angus is about 100 yards ahead on the left after the end of the flyover. If you find you didn't move over fast enough and have gone past the hotel while still on the ring-road go round and try again.

If you are coming on the M5 you can either stay on the motorway to Junction 6 as above, or leave at Junction 3, which is about 5 miles out of the city centre. Follow the signs to the city centre, arriving along Broad Street, which leads onto Paradise Circus Roundabout. Take the second major exit from this, roughly straight on, onto St Charles Queensway. Don't take the underpass, stay in the left hand lane leading to St Chads Circus roundabout. Turn right, 4th exit, up Snow Hill Queensway to Colmore Circus roundabout. Take the first exit left off Colmore Circus, a short road called Weaman Street. This leads to a back entrance to the Royal Angus car park.

From the A34, A41, A45, you will pass Digbeth and the Bull Ring. Turn right at the St Martins Circus roundabout onto Moor Street Queensway. Go under the first underpass, but keep left at the second, onto Lancaster Circus roundabout. Keep left here onto St Chads Queensway, and you will find the flyover from the A38(M) joining you from the right, see first para. The Royal Angus is 100 yards ahead on the left.

BY TRAIN You will probably arrive at Birmingham New Street station. If you arrive at Moor Street you must be local, and should know the way. If you arrive at Birmingham International you're in the wrong place! Stay there until another train to Birmingham arrives, and get that to New Street station!!

As you come through the ticket barriers at New Street go up the escalators which you will see straight ahead of you, turn left at the top and leave the shopping area via the ramp, (which will be almost directly ahead of you as you turn left getting off the escalator, but can't be seen properly until you get to it). Turn right at the bottom of the ramp, and the first bus stop you see is the 101 Centrebus. This runs every few minutes and will take you to the Angus, but stops running early evening. If you arrive after 6.00 p.m., when you reach the bottom of the ramp walk up Corporation Street, which is straight ahead of you across the traffic lights. Turn left at Old Square into Colmore Circus, down Snow Hill Queensway, and the Royal Angus is round the corner on the right.

BY COACH You will arrive at Digbeth Coach Station. Walk towards the city centre, crossing the road as you go, and turn right to Moor Street Station to catch a 101 Centrebus as above. If you arrive after 6.00 p.m. you go the same way, ignoring the station, under St Martins Circus, up High Street, bear slightly left up Bull Street, which brings you to Colmore Circus. You then proceed down Snow Hill Queensway, and the Royal Angus is round the corner to the right.

The pedestrian routes described above can be very confusing, as the Birmingham City Fathers decided to put traffic on the streets and people in underpasses and subways. They can also be a little unsavoury especially after dark.

A taxi from from either Digbeth Coach Station or New Street station would cost about £1 to £1.50, less if two or more are sharing, and is probably the best way to get to the hotel, especially if this is your first visit to Birmingham.

CHEAP RAIL TRAVEL

We have again arranged cheap train tickets for you, but I'm afraid the deal isn't as good as it used to be.

The Theatre & Concert Rail Club no longer do this except for card carrying members, but the new set-up, That's Entertainment, have carried on the good work, but to a lesser degree. The main differences are:

1. No flat-rate for children, they pay half adult rate.
2. No Special Railcard prices.
3. Conditions in respect of accommodation on certain days, see the booking form for full details.

In addition to these, you may be asked by British Rail staff to prove you actually have accommodation booked.

"That's Entertainment" do NOT require such proof, they don't even want you to specify on the form when you order tickets, but B.R. may ask, so if you haven't got a room in the hotel it's entirely up to you if you want to take a chance on not being asked.

Speaking purely personally, I would check B.R.'s own prices, especially if holding a student card or similar, then use the form if it really is a good saving. THAT IS NOT OFFICIAL ADVICE, it is a strictly personal opinion.

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THE SECRET LIFE OF SPIDERMAN

BY DAVE HOLMES

My first meeting with Iain was after a Futura presentation.he came into the shop and sorted some books out, then paid for them, despite his publishers' saying that they would get them for him. Well, I was interested, A SCOTSMAN who insisted on getting his money out!!

As soon as he left I phoned up Macmillan and ordered some copies of "The Wasp Factory". People had been saying for the previous few months "...weeell, it's not S.F. or horror or, or, er, but it's YOUR type of book" IT WAS!! IT WAS!!

After some persuading we finally managed to get Iain to a con. He took to it like a duck in a goldfish bowl. Half way through one of his many pints he said "Why can't people talk to me? They come up and open their mouths and can't say anything". He finished off his pint and said "I've heard M John Harrison's here", so I introduced him to Mike. Mike looked at him and said, "...who wrote Wasp Factory" Iain stood with his mouth open, and couldn't say anything.

Then came the midnight curry, Toby singing love songs to a teddy bear, (while Iain had his miniature tape recorder switched on).

Also the chinese meal, with Gamma & the railings, Gamma & too much sauce, Shaun Hutson & his toothpicks, all topped off with Iain paying the bill with one of his credit cards. Well, trying to, "Solly. we do not accept this cledit card". Guess who was late paying his bill!!

The early morning cup of coffee-well 3.30 actually..... Iain and Jim going to watch the sunrise (hope your ankles out of plaster now, Jim).....the look on the little old lady's face as the steel toe-capped wellie just missed her.....

O.K., this is what you've been waiting for, "Heeeeers Spidey!!!"

Most of you will have heard from friends, or read about, the (in)famous HOTEL CLIMBING. Here's what some people have told me, in each case <u>they</u> didn't see, but had a "very good friend" who <u>did</u>

> "Yeah, he was absailing up and down the building for at least ten minutes"
>
> "Honestly, they couldn't believe it, he had a Spider Man costume on"
>
> "He swung from one balcony to another"
>
> "The police dragged him off kicking & screaming"

HEY FOLKS, AIN'T NONE OF IT TRUE!!!!!

All he did was step from one balcony to another, a *whole three feet*, just 10 seconds. The police were investigating a robbery next door. Iain asked the fresh-faced enthusiastic policeman if he wanted any details or a statement. "No", said P.C.49, and that's it folks, nuffink more.

I'm pleased that Iain has been accepted into fandom-hey, he's even written an S.F. book to justify his con expenses to the taxman. So if you want to talk to Iain go ahead, buy him a pint (or 2 or 3), and don't forget to say something when you open your mouth!!

.....cont.

Latest news, after putting in a telephone order for "Walking on Glass" and his new novel I had a call back from the warehouse.....

"Mr Holmes?"
"Yes"
"We've got an order for you, and would like to confirm your change of address"
"Pardon"
"Your change of address"
"We haven't changed our address"
"YES YOU HAVE"
"NO WE HAVEN'T!!"
"But, on the order form I've got here it says '75 Espedair Street' "

Ain't intelligence wonderful??

THE NOVA AWARDS

BY MARTIN TUDOR (Nova awards administrator)

The NOVAS are awards for fanzines produced by *Science Fiction Fans* in the British Isles, created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field, and presented annually at the Birmingham Science Fiction Group's Novacon. The NOVA was, until 1981, awarded to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best of the Year'. Since then there have been two additional NOVAS awarded each year, to the fanwriter and fanartist voted 'Best of the Year'

For a fanzine to qualify *one* or more issues must have appeared between 1/10/1986 and 30/9/1987. For fanwriters and fanartists to qualify a piece of writing or artwork by the person concerned must have been published in a fanzine between 1/10/86 and 30/9/87.

For the purposes of this award a 'fanzine' shall be defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with science fiction, fantasy, science fiction and fantasy fans, and/or related subjects, and copies of which may be generally obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment.

The fundamental idea of the NOVA Awards as they have been run since 1981 is that they should be awarded by informed vote. Informed votes come from informed voters, who for the purposes of the NOVA awards are defined as any full or supporting members (of the Novacon at which the award is to be made), provided he or she has been active in fanzines during the year terminating on the 30th September of the current year. 'Active in Fanzines' is a bit harder to define.

For the purposes of these awards the NOVA committee have decided that 'to be active in fanzines' means to have recieved six or more fanzines during the course of the relevant year. *Fanzines* in this instance means *different publications* and *not* different issues of the same fanzine. The various official organs of a group or society shall not be treated as different fanzines for the purposes of this rule.

At Novacon 17 there will be a display of all the fanzines that I know to be eligible for the NOVA this year. If you have published a fanzine during the period 1/10/86 and 31/9/87 and you don't believe I have access to a copy, either send a copy to me at the address below, or bring it along to the convention-I'll be in the bar.

You should find a copy of the NOVA award ballott with this progress report. When completed it should either be returned to me at the address below, at least 1 week before Novacon 17, or deposited in the ballott box provided at the convention before Saturday midnight.

Address for Fanzines or completed ballot forms:

Martin Tudor
121 Cape Hill
Smethwick
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4SH

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FILMS

In these days of video recorders it is getting harder and harder to obtain films which may appeal to a convention audience, which you won't already have seen. The task is made even harder by the recent showings of many suitable films on T.V.

The choice given by the film hire companies is also pretty abysmal unless there is proper cinema equipment available.

We have noticed other conventions overcoming the problem by either using a proper cinema, which we can't do, or by showing videos instead of films, which we did think about.

What we eventually decided to do was to take some of you back to the films of your childhood, and to show others of you what your mums and dads watched on Saturday mornings.

At each of the film slots in the programme we will show 4 episodes of Flash Gordon serial, together with a shot feature. (Don't tell him we told you, but this is how Rog Peyton used to spend his Saturdays!!)

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ART AUCTION & DISPLAY

Don't forget, you artists, both budding and experienced, we will be having a display of artwork at the convention.

You can bring along your material for display only, or you can enter it in the auction, which will take place on Sunday.

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BOOK AUCTION

Many many thanks to all who have contributed material to the book and memorabilia auction. We now have all we are able to handle, thanks to the magnificent response.

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OVERFLOW HOTEL

Room booking are flowing in very nicely, and it does look as if the Angus will in fact be full up. In this event the overflow hotel will be the Grand Hotel in Colmore Row. If you do find you are booked into the Grand you will still pay the same amount ypu would have at the Angus, and the arrangements about breakfast tickets will still be the same, the only inconvenience to you will be the short walk from the one hotel to the other.

Your reservation is being confirmed by the hotel direct, if you have any problems, however, do please contact me (Bernie), and I will see what I can do to help.

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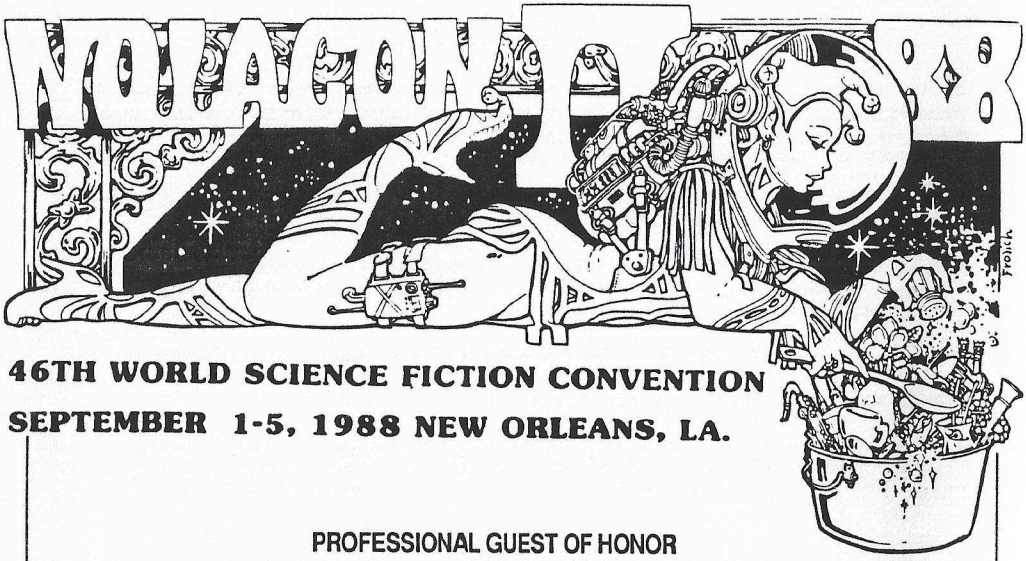

46TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 1-5, 1988 NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PROFESSIONAL GUEST OF HONOR

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FAN GUEST OF HONOR

ROGER SIMS

Former Worldcon Chairman & Founder, Second Fandom

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MIKE RESNICK

Author of Santiago and Tales of the Galactic Midway

HOTELS

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MEMBERSHIPS

Supporting	$30.00 (£19.00) until 14 July 1988
Attending	$60.00 (£38.00) until 31 December 1987
	$70.00 (£45.00) until 14 July 1988

For full details of membership entitlements, Dealers, Art Show, the Nolacon Masque, Publications and Publicity, Programming, and Handicapped Access write to:

NOLACON II, 921 CANAL ST., SUITE 831, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112, U.S.A.
or British Agent
LINDA PICKERSGILL, 7A LAWRENCE RD., EALING, LONDON W5 4XJ, U.K.

PROGRAMME

At last, what you've all been waiting for, some programme details!!

As I've said before, in keeping with our policy of "Going back to our roots", we are having a single programme stream.

The action starts on Friday evening, with the help of ANDROMEDA BOOKS, see the "Invitation" on the back cover of this P.R.

On Saturday and Sunday we have continuous programming, events will include talks and panels, serious and not so serious, and some downright silly. We also have films, (see separate item), Art Auction, book and memorabilia auction, both starring Rog Peyton,a quiz by Tim Illingworth, silly games, a Halloween disco, an artists duel. The whole thing will be rounded off on Sunday night with a "Fan Night".

The Fan Night will be organised in the early part by Ian Sorensen, with Greg & Linda Pickersgill taking over for the final session. I haven't the slightest idea what they will be lining up for us, but one thing I do know for sure, IT WILL BE FUN.

Among the people taking part in our programme we will have Iain Banks, Terry Pratchett, Freda Warrington, David Gemmell, Storm Constantine, Colin Langeveld, Jim Barker, Shaun Hutson, Gwyneth Jones, and among the fans taking an active part we have Tim Illingworth, Chris Morgan, Kathy Westhead, Ian Sorenson, Greg & Linda Pickersgill etc etc.

And if all this proves to be too much we have the Fan-room to relax in, the Art Show and the book rooms.

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THE MEMBERS

S1 David Elworthy
S2 Chuck Connor
S3 Bob Shaw
S4 Michael Abbott
S5 Wanda Gemmell
S6 Stephen Tudor
*59 Dave Kirkbride
*95 M.C. Reynolds
224 Kete Solomon
225 Malcolm Davies
226 Malcolm M Reid
227 Richard van der Voort
228 Marion van der Voort
229 Rob Holdstock
230 Mark Spires
231 Dave Shotton
232 Alice O'Donnell
233 David T Cooper
234 David Plant
235 Chris Murphy
236 Ron Gemmell
237 Martin Smith
238 Juliet Eyeions
239 Joseph Nicholas
240 Judith Hanna
241 Mike McNab
242 Helen McNab
243 Mark Thomas
244 Mike Green
245 Rik Thomas
246 Simon Ounsley
247 Chris Cheyne
248 Vicky Cheyne
249 Alex Cheyne
250 Lilian Edwards
251 Shaun Hutson
252 Gwyneth Jones
253 John Brosnan
*254
255 Storm Constantine
256 Jag
257 D. West
258 P.S.R. Pollett
259 S.D. Prosser
260 Mark Caldwell
261 Julie Cooper
262 John Ledson
263 Leslie Ward
264 Brian Davies
265 Vanessa Toulmin
266 Tom Taylor
267 Laurence Dean
268 Steve Hatton
269 Chris Hinchley
270 Count Vlodmark
271 Rachel Ann Dickinson
272 Alan Sullivan
273 Jean Maudsley
274 A.M. White
275 Steve Allman
276 Jim Goddard
277 Sylvia Starshine
278 Gerry Webb
279 Noelle Hall
280 William Mische
281 William Dunn
282 Barbara Mascetti
283 Richard James
284 Keith Mitchell
285 Hope Kieffer
286 T.D. Goodier
287 Barbara
288 Kev McVeish
289 Bryan Pritchard
290
291 Helena Bowles
292 Malcolm Ashworth
293 Hazel Ashworth

New members since P.R.2 up to late September.
'S' Before a number indicates a supporting member
'*' Before a number indicates number re-issued after a conversion from attending to supporting

OPENING PARTY

A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION

YOUR CONVENTION COMMITTEE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP

84 SUFFOLK STREET · BIRMINGHAM B1 1TA · ENGLAND · Tel: 021-643 1999

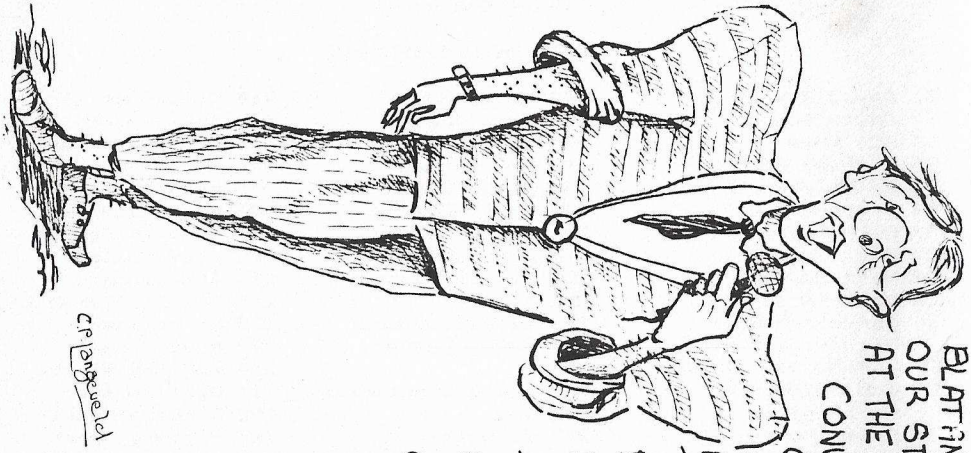
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR OPENING PARTY AT 8.00 P.M. FRIDAY 30/10/87.

Yes folks, we know how well attended opening ceremonies tend to be, and we also know how you all love the parties which our friends at ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP are becoming famous for, so we decided to merge the two events and give you something completely different to get the convention off to a flying start.

You'll have to attend to find out what it's all about, because that's all I'm telling you for now!!

Oh all right then, just a little. Two special guests at the party will be IAIN BANKS, our Guest of Honour, and TERRY PRATCHETT, who has two new books published to coincide with the convention.

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN



A SIDEWAYS LOOK